United Nations A/69/828

General Assembly

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 160
Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Financing arrangements for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 68/259 B on the financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), appropriated the amount of $895,534,000 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, inclusive of $830,701,700 for the maintenance of the Mission, $53,752,200 for the support account for peacekeeping operations and $11,080,100 for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. The total amount has been assessed on Member States.

2. By its resolution 2164 (2014), the Security Council extended the mandate of MINUSMA within the authorized troop ceiling of 11,200 military personnel, including reserve battalions capable of deploying rapidly within the country, and 1,440 police personnel until 30 June 2015. It requested the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to enable MINUSMA to reach its full operational capacity as soon as possible in the context of a new force laydown and called upon Member States to provide troops and police with adequate capabilities and equipment, including enablers, in order for MINUSMA to fulfil its mandate. The Council stressed the importance of facilitating the new laydown to extend the Mission's operations in northern Mali, a complex security environment that included asymmetric threats.

3. The ability of armed extremist groups to launch operations and/or terrorist attacks poses a continuing threat to the implementation of the mandate of the Mission, as can be seen in the increasing use of asymmetric tactics, including improvised explosive devices and indirect fire, against MINUSMA personnel and assets. Over the past six months, the security context in northern Mali has changed significantly. With armed groups regaining control over key towns and the accompanying vacuum of the Malian defence and security forces throughout the north, the Mission has gone from a target of opportunity or collateral damage to a

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primary target. In July 2014, the number of attacks affecting MINUSMA was, for the first time, higher than those against Operation Barkhane, the Malian defence and security forces and other actors combined. Injuries to MINUSMA personnel caused by improvised explosive devices quadrupled in 2014 compared with 2013. In addition, improvised explosive devices and anti-vehicle mines placed along routes used by MINUSMA severely hindered the Mission's freedom of movement and negatively affected its supply chain and operations in northern Mali.

4. The increased lethality and overall impact of improvised explosive device attacks on the Mission requires a revision of the response to asymmetrical threats, lest MINUSMA personnel continue to lose their lives or be injured, military and civilian personnel experience restricted mobility and hampered freedom of movement and the Mission be unable to resupply field bases by road. To tackle those challenges and mitigate the threat posed by improvised explosive devices, the military component must reduce its vulnerability by enhancing its capabilities through additional equipment and training and the establishment of dedicated procedures. In this connection, the United Nations Mine Action Service is in a position to support MINUSMA in the following five key areas:

(a) Advising the Mission on action to tackle improvised explosive devices and other explosive hazards;

(b) Training personnel to operate safely and effectively in an environment in which improvised explosive devices pose threats;

(c) Mentoring personnel to help them to adapt in the short term to improvised explosive device attacks;

(d) Procuring specialist equipment to reduce the risk or impact of attacks;

(e) Delivering targeted support in areas in which the Mission will not be able to develop capacity to mitigate the threats posed by improvised explosive devices.

5. When the budget for 2014/15 was formulated, no provision was made for the new force laydown or the expansion of the presence of the Mission in the north of Mali beyond key population centres and the associated infrastructure investment. The current security scenarios and exigencies also were not contemplated. On the basis of its planning and operational requirements and expenditure projections, MINUSMA cannot meet the costs from within its existing resources and is therefore seeking additional funding of $80,336,300 (see table).

Additional resource requirements for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	*Apportionment* (1)	*Additional requirements* (2)	*Total requirements* (3) = (1) + (2)
Military and police personnel			
Military observers	–	–	–
Military contingents	290 978.5	–	290 978.5
United Nations police	13 456.3	–	13 456.3
Formed police units	31 789.1	–	31 789.1
Subtotal	**336 223.9**	**–**	**336 223.9**
Civilian personnel			
International staff	102 389.7	–	102 389.7
National staff	12 021.7	–	12 021.7
United Nations Volunteers	5 876.0	–	5 876.0
General temporary assistance	293.2	–	293.2
Government-provided personnel	268.3	–	268.3
Subtotal	**120 848.9**	**–**	**120 848.9**
Operational costs			
Civilian electoral observers	–	–	–
Consultants	519.1	–	519.1
Official travel	3 484.6	–	3 484.6
Facilities and infrastructure	130 162.7	70 300.0	200 462.7
Ground transportation	21 724.3	–	21 724.3
Air transportation	128 306.1	–	128 306.1
Naval transportation	417.2	–	417.2
Communications	22 361.4	–	22 361.4
Information technology	16 621.6	–	16 621.6
Medical	2 684.7	–	2 684.7
Special equipment	–	–	–
Other supplies, services and equipment	44 347.2	10 036.3	54 383.5
Quick-impact projects	3 000.0	–	3 000.0
Subtotal	**373 628.9**	**80 336.3**	**453 965.2**
Gross requirements	**830 701.7**	**80 336.3**	**911 038.0**
Staff assessment income	9 938.7	–	9 938.7
Net requirements	**820 763.0**	**80 336.3**	**901 099.3**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	–	–	–
Total requirements	**830 701.7**	**80 336.3**	**911 038.0**

6. The additional resources in the amount of $70,300,000 for facilities and infrastructure are required for the construction of additional camps and the strengthening of existing camps in northern Mali, given that the initial horizontal works, such as the levelling and stabilizing of the ground, the preparation of hardstands and the laying of the road network, are about to be completed and it is critical to proceed with transitional work such as force protection projects, including bunkers for all deployed personnel, blast walls, observation towers and security lights. In addition, helicopter platforms have to be constructed at the bases in Kidal and Timbuktu in order to enable the permanent deployment of utility helicopters and armed helicopters and to facilitate round-the-clock casualty and medical evacuations. MINUSMA will also establish camps at remote locations in Ber, Goundam, Leré and Anefis and will significantly strengthen the camps at Gossi and Douentza. To support the implementation of its construction programme, the Mission has successfully engaged contractors capable of operating in the harsh environment of northern Mali as exigencies dictate. The additional requirements for the construction programme are based on the percentage of projects expected to be completed by 30 June 2015. The investment is made to fully operationalize and enhance the capability of MINUSMA in the face of increased asymmetric attacks.

7. The additional resource requirements of $10,036,300 for other supplies, services and equipment are attributable to the contractual arrangements with the United Nations Mine Action Service for mine detection and mine-clearing services in connection with a programme to counter improvised explosive devices, to be implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services, consisting of electronic countermeasures to protect explosive ordnance disposal teams during disposal operations, vehicle-mounted ground-penetrating radar for route clearance platoons and ground-alert systems to be installed in Gao and Tessalit to warn personnel of indirect attacks.

8. **The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of the Mission are:**

(a) **To appropriate the amount of $80,336,300 for the maintenance and operation of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, in addition to the amount of $830,701,700 already appropriated for the same period for the maintenance of the Mission under the terms of General Assembly resolution 68/259 B;**

(b) **To assess the total amount in paragraph (a) above, in addition to the amount of $830,701,700 already assessed for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.**

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 42
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 20 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I enclose herewith two separate annexes, recording the infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey (see annex I) as well as the illegal use of closed ports by Turkish warships (see annex II) during the month of February 2015. It should also be noted that Turkish commercial aircraft systematically use the illegal airport of Tympou. I have the honour to draw your attention to the systematic infringements by Turkey of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus through blatant violations of international law in a way that seriously jeopardizes safety and security in the greater region.

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**

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Annex I to the letter dated 20 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Airborne violations

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
2 February	1000-1035	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia flight information region (FIR) and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia area control centre (ACC).
4 February	0959-1015	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1003-1124	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal airport of Tympou.
	1608-1630	One B-200 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal airport of Tympou.
5 February	0916-1125	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	0929-1010	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
8 February	1428-1535	Two Turkish military helicopters infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
10 February	1012-1050	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
11 February	1020-1050	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
16 February	0925-1455	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
17 February	0934-1319	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1354-1408	Four F-4 and four F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
18 February	0950-1303	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1050-1303	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
19 February	1505-1527	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, landing at the illegal airport of Tympou.
	1635-1653	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC, having departed from the illegal airport of Tympou.
20 February	1148-1326	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1200-1320	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Date	*Time*	*Nature of violation*
	1216-1228	One C-160 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1218-1310	Two F-4 and two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
24 February	0801-0906	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1004-1013	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1016-1114	Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1016-1114	Two F-4 and two F-16 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	1128-1329	One Cougar Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
25 February	0738-0835	One S-70 Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
	0949-1135	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
26 February	0947-1045	One Turkish military helicopter infringed international air traffic regulations and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by entering the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.
27 February	1048-1314	One CN-235 Turkish military aircraft infringed international air traffic regulations by entering the Nicosia FIR without diplomatic permit or contacting the Nicosia ACC.

Annex II to the letter dated 20 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Naval violations

Dates	*Nature of violation*
12 January-21 February	One Turkish offshore supply ship violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, having previously participated in illegal seismic surveys within the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus.
12 January-March	One C-150 Turkish landing ship violates the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally uses the closed port of Kerynia.
7-8 February	One Turkish seismographic research/survey vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, having previously participated in illegal seismic surveys within the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus.
7-8 February	One general cargo ship violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, having previously participated in illegal seismic surveys within the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus.
17-19 February	One A-1600 Turkish military transport ferry violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos.
18-20 February	One general cargo ship violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, having previously participated in illegal seismic surveys within the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus.
19-20 February	One F-505 Turkish corvette violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
20-23 February	One S-356 Turkish submarine violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Kerynia while participating in naval exercises of the occupation forces.
21-22 February	One A-1600 Turkish military transport ferry violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos.
22-23 February	One Turkish seismographic research/survey vessel violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, having previously participated in illegal seismic surveys within the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus.
25 February	One general cargo ship violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos, having previously participated in illegal seismic surveys within the exclusive economic zone of Cyprus.
25 February-March	Two Turkish offshore supply ships violate the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally use the closed port of Ammochostos.

Dates	*Nature of violation*
26 February	One A-1600 Turkish military transport ferry violated the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally used the closed port of Ammochostos.
26 February-March	One C-151 Turkish landing ship violates the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally uses the closed port of Ammochostos.
27 February-March	One AG-6 (P-306) Turkish net laying ship violates the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus and illegally uses the closed port of Ammochostos.

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Security Council

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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda items 35 and 36

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 19 March 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of an official statement adopted today, 19 March 2015, by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (see annex). This statement addresses many long-standing and current issues relevant to the ongoing search for a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine, an item that has been on the agenda of the United Nations since its inception and for which the United Nations bears a permanent responsibility until it is satisfactorily resolved in all its aspects, in accordance with international law and the relevant resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer of the
State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Annex to the identical letters dated 19 March 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Statement by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization

On 19 March 2015, the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, chaired by Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, met in Ramallah to discuss current political developments. Following are the outcomes of that meeting:

First, the Executive Committee condemns the reckless, racist campaign waged by Netanyahu during the Israeli electoral campaign, particularly his attempt to stoke fears regarding the participation in the elections by large numbers of Palestinian Arabs in Israel. Netanyahu openly declared that his true agenda was to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian State and unleash settlement expansion. He is thus attempting to assemble the forces of extremism and racism, and spark hostilities against the Palestinian people and its leadership, with a view to advancing his main goal of perpetuating the occupation and controlling the destiny and future of the Palestinian people.

Following the successful pursuit of its openly declared agenda, which, in fact, it has been pursuing over the past years, the Israeli right is now overtly committed to furthering and hastening the implementation of that agenda. This calls for all regional and international actors to take a more decisive stand against that agenda, which undermines all opportunities to achieve peace and will serve to prolong occupation and racism, and deprive our people of their right to self-determination in their homeland.

We must therefore counteract this policy at the political, economic and other levels. We must also strive to broaden recognition of and support for a State of Palestine based on the line of 4 June 1967, with Jerusalem as its capital, in the Security Council and other international institutions. No one should be deceived by any of the shifting, dishonest positions adopted by the occupation Government in order to buy time and build more settlements, especially in occupied Jerusalem.

We stand at an historic crossroads. The forces of extremism and racism in Israel are attempting to exploit the regional and international situations in the ugliest possible manner, in order to turn back the hands of time and destroy everything that the international community has agreed upon regarding a just, balanced solution for the region. This will require us to rally our people's steadfastness and strength, unite national actors at home and abroad, and approach the next phase from an entirely different perspective. We must not allow our forces and efforts to be divided and fragmented, and we cannot rely on any possibility of resuming negotiations that Israel has undermined and made hollow.

The Executive Committee expresses its great appreciation to and its admiration for the Palestinian people inside Israel and all political actors for what

they have achieved through their unity and solidarity and their staunch support of a national programme that preserves their steadfastness and ensures their continued presence on the land of their ancestors. This programme serves to strengthen their defiance of racism in all its manifestations and supports their right to establish an independent State on the basis of the 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Second, based on the decision of the Palestinian Central Council, the Executive Committee has decided to instruct the Political Committee and the heads of the security and other relevant agencies to formulate a detailed plan on how to implement the decision to halt security cooperation with occupation agencies, and to address all questions related to the economy.

The Executive Committee also decided to take the measures required to complete the process of joining the International Criminal Court. It also decided to take subsequently the steps that are required to bring before the Court cases concerning settlements and recurring Israeli aggression against our people and our nation, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

Third, the Executive Committee decided to send a unified Palestinian delegation composed of representatives of the different national political factions to the Gaza Strip to initiate a comprehensive dialogue, with the participation of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The aim is to implement the commitments made in previous accords, as well as the Central Council's decisions regarding national reconciliation, in particular, enabling the Government of National Consensus to perform its functions, specifically with regard to reconstruction and the holding of presidential and legislative elections, in accordance with the relevant decree.

Fourth, the Executive Committee condemns the terrorist and criminal acts that were committed in Tunisia. It stands with the Tunisian people and its leadership against any attacks against the security of Tunisia and its democratic system. The Executive Committee also stands with all Arab peoples against the waves of terrorism and crime targeting their national unity and territorial integrity.

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 33
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 20 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 18 March 2015, regarding the thirty-first round of the Geneva international discussions (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 20 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the thirty-first round of the Geneva international discussions

Tbilisi, 18 March 2015

The thirty-first round of the Geneva international discussions was held on 18 March 2015. The participants of the discussions took part, in their individual capacity, in two working groups. Security and stability in the Russian-occupied territories of Georgia — Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region — were discussed in working group I, whereas discussions in working group II were focused on issues related to the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their original places of residence. The discussions were co-chaired by the representatives of the European Union, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and attended by participants from Georgia, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. The Head of the Provisional Administration of the former South Ossetian Autonomous District and the Chairman of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, as well as representatives of the Russian occupation regimes in Sokhumi and Tskhinvali also took part in the discussions.

Negotiations were held in a difficult atmosphere, while in parallel the so-called "treaty on alliance and integration" was being signed in Moscow between Russia and its occupation regime in Tskhinvali. That document implies the factual annexation of the Tskhinvali region by Russia and is directly linked to all key issues on the agenda of the Geneva international discussions, including security and humanitarian aspects.

The decision to have the signature of the so-called "treaty" coincide with the Geneva international discussions represents a deliberate provocation aimed at discrediting the only format of negotiations between Georgia and Russia on security issues under international mediation and disrupting the current round of the discussions.

The Georgian delegation raised the issue with the co-chairs and the representatives of the United States and called upon them to give a proper assessment of the illegal and provocative action of the Russian Federation. On the eve of the signature, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the United States Department of State made statements condemning the so-called "treaty" between the Russian Federation and its occupation regime in Tskhinvali. That the day of the signature coincided with the Geneva international discussions was assessed as an action directed against the existing format. The issue was also touched upon in the statement of the co-chairs of the discussions, in which they called upon the participants to engage constructively.

Within the working groups, participants from Georgia condemned Russia's factual annexation of the occupied territories and its deliberate policy against the Geneva international discussions. They highlighted all the risks stemming from the

implementation of the so-called "treaties" for the Russian-occupied Georgian regions and the adjacent areas in the security, humanitarian and human rights spheres.

In the light of the current situation, the Georgian delegation stressed the urgent necessity of a non-use of force pledge by Russia, as well as the establishment of effective international security and human rights monitoring mechanisms inside the occupied territories. Within working group II, the importance of the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees, freedom of movement across the occupation line and receiving education in one's native language were discussed.

The fundamental demands of the Georgian side were rejected by some participants and, as a result, they walked out at the end of the round. The Georgian delegation made the best of the format of the thirty-first round of the Geneva international discussions and raised all key issues pertaining to the agenda.

The next round of the Geneva international discussions will be held on 30 June and 1 July 2015.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 154
Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Financing arrangements for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Note by the Secretary-General

1. By its resolution 68/287 of 30 June 2014 on the financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the General Assembly appropriated and assessed on Member States the amount of $1,397,036,000 gross for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

2. Since the budget for MONUSCO for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (A/68/788) was issued on 7 March 2014 and the General Assembly adopted its resolution 68/287, substantial changes in the cost parameters and assumptions used in the budget have had a significant impact on the approved budget, resulting in additional resource requirements.

3. More than 15 years since its establishment, MONUSCO entered a new phase starting in March 2013. Since that time, the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region has guided a renewed commitment to the political process; the establishment of the new Force Intervention Brigade has provided a focus for heightened efforts in protecting civilians and joint operations with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo — FARDC); and the Mission has undertaken a major shift in both its emphasis and physical footprint, to the eastern provinces of the country. With national elections approaching in 2016, opportunities are nearing for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and MONUSCO to take another step forward towards peace and stability. The recent tempo of security operations and other activities, however, continues to reflect the urgency of the situation and the associated risks.

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4. A planned reconfiguration of MONUSCO forces, including a reduction in troops by approximately 2,000 (10 per cent of the mandated ceiling), did not occur before the beginning of the 2014/15 budget period as had been expected during the budget preparations. Military operations have continued in recent months as part of efforts to remove the armed groups that have been at the heart of the instability in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Those security operations and intensified support to FARDC during 2014/15 have remained a key element of the Mission's commitment to the restoration of State authority in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the protection of civilians. Although the drawdown of 2,000 troops, along with a number of measures to reconfigure the MONUSCO military force, will commence shortly, the impact of the delay on the budget for the current period is estimated to total $50.5 million. Added costs include reimbursement for higher-than-expected levels of troops and equipment to contributing countries, associated rations and troop transportation and the cost of repatriating equipment during the current budget period.

5. In approving funding for the 2014/15 period, the General Assembly made a number of decisions with significant implications for amounts payable for personnel reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries, including an increase in the rate of reimbursement and a new requirement that agreed equipment be deployed and serviceable if contributing countries were to be reimbursed in full for associated personnel. Prior to the start of the budget period, it was estimated that reimbursement costs for MONUSCO would be reduced by $22.6 million for the 2014/15 period because of this new link to a shortfall in contingent-owned equipment. Although the original allotment for MONUSCO for the year was increased substantially for the new rates of reimbursement for troops and police, the associated reductions for personnel reimbursement for absent or unserviceable contingent-owned equipment was instead applied to the Mission's air transportation budget class. This had the effect of partially masking the additional costs associated with the delay in reducing troops, but also incorrectly exaggerated additional costs for the Mission's air operations. While there is no net impact on the Mission's funding for the year, this factor affects the variance explanation for air transportation described below.

6. The table below summarizes the Mission's efforts to reprioritize existing funding to meet baseline requirements. This includes a number of significant pressures that have been addressed. The impact of a few major challenges, however, exceeds the existing financial capacity of MONUSCO to absorb the additional costs through reprioritization as described in the variance analysis below the table. Although totalling $73.5 million in unexpected costs for the 2014/15 period owing to the delayed reduction in troops and the increased cost of national staff salaries, the net requirement for additional funding for the 2014/15 period has been reduced to $38.6 million as a result of lower costs and a commitment to streamlining requirements in other areas.

Additional resource requirements for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	Apportionment (1)	Total projected expenditure (2)	Variance	
			Amount (3)=(1)-(2)	Percentage (4)=(3)÷(1)
Military and police personnel				
Military observers	47 792.8	43 035.0	4 757.8	10.0
Military contingents	568 831.9	567 561.6	1 270.3	0.2
United Nations police	23 741.8	21 360.2	2 381.6	10.0
Formed police units	32 632.2	25 695.8	6 936.4	21.3
Subtotal	**672 998.7**	**657 652.6**	**15 346.1**	**2.3**
Civilian personnel				
International staff	189 789.3	182 051.8	7 737.5	4.1
National staff	79 102.3	106 571.5	(27 469.2)	(34.7)
United Nations Volunteers	23 209.8	19 957.8	3 252.0	14.0
General temporary assistance	9 681.6	9 681.6	–	–
Government-provided personnel	6 311.1	5 100.0	1 211.1	19.2
Subtotal	**308 094.1**	**323 362.7**	**(15 268.6)**	**(5.0)**
Operational costs				
Civilian electoral observers	–	–	–	–
Consultants	1 165.2	572.4	592.8	50.9
Official travel	8 832.0	7 739.3	1 092.7	12.4
Facilities and infrastructure	88 538.2	87 100.3	1 437.9	1.6
Ground transportation	24 831.5	27 518.4	(2 686.9)	(10.8)
Air transportation	206 472.2	237 897.2	(31 425.0)	(15.2)
Naval transportation	1 455.9	1 432.6	23.3	1.6
Communications	26 282.6	26 282.6	–	–
Information technology	16 618.1	16 618.1	–	–
Medical	2 222.4	2 003.5	218.9	9.8
Special equipment	–	–	–	–
Other supplies, services and equipment	32 525.1	40 434.0	(7 908.9)	(24.3)
Quick-impact projects	7 000.0	7 000.0	–	–
Subtotal	**415 943.2**	**454 598.4**	**(38 655.2)**	**(9.3)**
Gross requirements	**1 397 036.0**	**1 435 613.7**	**(38 577.7)**	**(2.8)**
Staff assessment income	25 544.8	26 822.0	(1 277.2)	(5.0)
Net requirements	**1 371 491.2**	**1 408 791.7**	**(37 300.5)**	**(2.7)**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	1 439.3	1 439.3	–	–
Total requirements	**1 398 475.3**	**1 437 053.0**	**(38 577.7)**	**(2.8)**

7. The increased requirement for national staff in the amount of $27.5 million (or 34.7 per cent) is attributable to an increase in the national staff salary scales in January 2014, effective 1 November 2013, which was not factored into the 2014/15 budget estimates. The salary scale increased by 37.5 per cent for National Professional Officers and by 33.7 per cent for national General Service staff in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Furthermore, the national salary scale for national staff in Uganda was revised effective 1 August 2014, resulting in an increase of 7.3 per cent for National Professional Officers and 9.0 per cent for national General Service staff.

8. The additional resource requirement of $31.4 million under air transportation is attributable to the decision of the General Assembly to reduce the appropriation by $22.6 million inadvertently assigned to the air transportation instead of to military contingents and formed police units as described in paragraph 5 above, with the effect of overstating additional expenditure for air transportation and understating the variance for military contingents and formed police units. In addition, the contractual terms for two Rooivalk helicopters changed, increasing costs by $8 million. While an overrun of $31.4 million is projected, MONUSCO has also begun to reduce its regular flight schedule in an effort to reduce the Mission's reliance on air travel by its own staff, especially with the shift to the eastern provinces. In realizing these gains, the Mission's air fleet will be rationalized through greater opportunities to share aircraft with other field operations in the region.

9. The additional resource requirement under other supplies, services and equipment in the amount of $7.9 million is attributable to: (a) the movement of contingent-owned equipment from a company operating base in Kinshasa to Gemena; (b) an increase in the volume of fuel delivered by road owing to the use of new routes, i.e. Kisangani-Bunia and Beni-Dungu, to transport fuel to the new company operating base in Gemena and two military observer temporary stations in the west; and (c) movement of the remaining United Nations-owned equipment and personal effects from Kinshasa to Goma.

10. The additional resource requirement under ground transportation in the amount of $2.7 million results from the settlement of contractual liabilities related to fuel delivery.

11. The reduced resource requirement of $15.4 million under military and police personnel is primarily attributable to higher projected average vacancy rates, including: a projected vacancy rate of 9 per cent for military observers compared with the rate of 5 per cent that was budgeted, and to the reduction in the mission subsistence allowance rate for the first 30 days by 38 per cent effective March 2015; a projected vacancy rate of 14 per cent for United Nations police compared with the rate of 6 per cent that was budgeted; and a projected vacancy rate of 24 per cent for formed police units compared with the rate of 2 per cent that was budgeted.

12. The Mission has also sought to reprioritize funds to the extent possible, including by limiting recruitment for the remainder of the current budget period to critical and immediate requirements. Vacancy rates for the Mission have, as a consequence, risen during the 2014/15 period. The savings under civilian personnel comprise: (a) $7.7 million under international staff, as the projected average vacancy rate is of 16 per cent for staff in the Professional and higher categories compared with the rate of 10 per cent that was budgeted; (b) $3.3 million under

United Nations Volunteers, as the projected average vacancy rate is of 14 per cent compared with the rate of 7 per cent that was budgeted, and as a result of a freeze on recruitment and the non-replacement of departing United Nations Volunteers to the end of the year; and (c) $1.2 million under government-provided personnel, as the projected average vacancy rate is of 48 per cent compared with the rate of 30 per cent that was budgeted.

13. In order to reprioritize funds and minimize the overall projected overrun, the Mission has limited all official travel and consultancy services to activities that have a direct impact on mandate implementation and immediate operational requirements.

14. Under the circumstances set out in the present note, the requested additional appropriation for MONUSCO, with assessment, for the 2014/15 financial period is critical in ensuring the continued operation of the Mission in support of its mandate.

15. **The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of the Mission are:**

(a) **To appropriate the amount of $38,577,700 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, in addition to the amount of $1,397,036,000 already appropriated for the same period for the maintenance of the Mission under the terms of Assembly resolution 68/287;**

(b) **To assess the total amount in paragraph (a) above, in addition to the amount of $1,397,036,000 already assessed for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.**

United Nations A/69/833–S/2015/201

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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 107
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our identical letters of 24 February 2015 (A/69/795-S/2015/137), I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

From 22 February to 22 March 2015, armed terrorist groups bombed and shelled the cities of Syria, killing 172 Syrian civilians, 28 of them children, and injuring 383 civilians, 83 of them children. Those criminal acts have now claimed a total of 17,358 Syrian civilian lives, including 1,895 children; 16,129 civilians, 2,913 of them children, have been wounded.

Those figures include all Syrian governorates except for Raqqah. They do not include those members of the Syrian Arab Army, the security forces and law enforcement forces who have died in clashes with terrorist organizations and terrorists, including the foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries brought to Syria by State sponsors of terrorism in order to wreak havoc and destruction in the country, in a flagrant standing violation of Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1989 (2011), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015). Nor do those figures reflect the civilians who have been shot, have had their throats cut or have fallen victim to any of the other barbaric criminal methods used by the terrorist organizations.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities by condemning and holding to account State sponsors of terrorism, particularly the regimes of Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and by prevailing on them to bring an end to their destructive activities, which endanger international peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-04706 (E) 250315 270315

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United Nations A/69/834

General Assembly

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24 March 2015

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 68
Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 18 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the attached information on the declaration of 2015 as the Year of Attention and Care for the Older Generation in the Republic of Uzbekistan (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68, "Promotion and protection of human rights".

(*Signed*) Muzaffar **Madrakhimov**

15-04717 (E) 010415 010415

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Annex to the letter dated 18 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Declaration of 2015 as the Year of Attention and Care for the Older Generation in Uzbekistan

At the initiative of President Islam Karimov, the year 2015 has been declared the Year of Attention and Care for the Older Generation in the Republic of Uzbekistan. This measure is based on the age-old values of our people, and its purpose is to express due respect and provide comprehensive support to people of advanced age, in keeping with the aspirations and desires of our society. At a ceremony to mark the twenty-second anniversary of the Constitution of Uzbekistan, the President emphasized that attention and genuine concern for the elderly are among the primary determinants of a society's level of cultural development.

Respect, veneration and concern for members of the older generation are indicators of a society's morals and its degree of sophistication. Since antiquity, these lofty moral qualities have been characteristic of the Uzbek people, and they have been a national policy priority of Uzbekistan since the early days of independence.

The Uzbek model of development, based on the five principles of reform and economic renewal developed by President Karimov, has set the course for the transformation of our country for many years to come. Establishing a system of social protection based on a firm legal foundation is a main priority. The human being and his or her life and dreams, hopes and concerns are the central focus.

The Presidential Decree of 19 March 2007 on measures to further enhance and strengthen the social protection system, the Decision of the Head of State of 30 May 2011 on additional measures to further strengthen social protection for single elderly people, pensioners and persons with disabilities for the period from 2011 to 2015 as well as other laws and regulations contain clear benchmarks and specific social protection goals. These instruments serve as a unique road map to ensure the welfare and increased well-being of citizens of retirement age, veterans of the Second World War and veterans of labour.

Steady improvements in the social sphere serve as clear indication of the thoroughgoing work that has been done in Uzbekistan to provide for the social protection of the people. Dynamic and balanced economic development is the basis for progressive improvements in the standard of living and quality of life.

In this connection, in order to provide comprehensive support for the elderly, more than 11,618 billion sum were allocated from the national budget for pension payments last year alone, as well as more than 105 billion sum for benefits. Those who participated in the war or laboured on the home front receive assistance each year in the form of free medical care, treatments at sanatoria and health resorts, and other necessary support.

The elderly also receive material and moral support from non-governmental and community organizations. The scale of this support is steadily increasing. In

2014, for example, the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions, Uzpharmsanoat (a government corporation), the Dori-Darmon corporation, the Nuronii and Makhalla Foundations, the Kamolot youth organization and others were actively involved in work to improve quality of life for the elderly. With their assistance, war veterans and veterans of labour visited Samarqand, Bukhoro, Khiva, Termez, Tashkent and other cities in Uzbekistan, received outpatient and inpatient care and underwent sanatoria rest cures.

Thus, all possible efforts are being made to provide the elderly with decent lives, for it is they who have made a major contribution to ensuring peace and tranquillity and strengthening the economic potential of our Homeland, economic potential that serves as the basis for its current well-being.

This year, activity to develop the social sphere and ensure targeted social assistance to single elderly people, pensioners, persons with disabilities and needy families is continuing to increase in scope. The Decree of the Head of State of 13 October 2014 on measures to further strengthen social support for war and labour veterans who served during the period 1941 to 1945 and the declaration of 2015 as the Year of Attention and Care for the Older Generation in Uzbekistan have provided impetus for the new social initiatives.

The national programme for the Year of Attention and Care for the Older Generation, adopted under the Presidential Decision of 18 February 2015, will shape the implementation of these benevolent actions. The programme aims to further raise the standard of living and quality of life for the elderly, increase the scale of material and moral support, enhance social, pension and medical services for the elderly, particularly for war and labour veterans who served during the period from 1941 to 1945, and expand the role of the elderly in raising up young people in the spirit of values and traditions of our people that stretch back for centuries.

The national programme for the Year of Attention and Care for the Older Generation, which consists of six parts, provides for further improvements to the legislative and regulatory framework designed to strengthen focus on and care for the elderly. Documents that have been drafted serve as the basis for plans to enhance the pension and social support systems and establish a more convenient system for the provision of government services to the elderly, including for obtaining various certificates and supporting documents.

Targeted social protection and support for the elderly will be enhanced, particularly for war and labour veterans who served during the period from 1941 to 1945, and the range of social welfare services provided to the elderly will be expanded, especially for single persons of advanced age and persons with disabilities. The scale of material and moral support provided by the *makhalla*, or neighbourhood community, the Nuronii Foundation and other non-governmental and community organizations will be expanded, in order to ensure their well-being and decent living conditions.

This year, for example, everyone who participated in the war from 1941 to 1945 will receive a domestically produced television and cell phone at no cost, with 60 free minutes of local and long-distance outgoing calls each month and no monthly user charges. War and labour veterans who travel to sanatoria and rest cure establishments within the country will receive one free train trip per year and a 50 per cent reduction on air travel (round trip).

Improved medical and social services for veterans and elderly people receive particular attention in the national programme through comprehensive wellness programmes, expanded prevention activities, up-to-date treatment methods of increased scope and availability, provision of rehabilitation aids and assistive technologies for the elderly and persons with disabilities, including on a preferential basis, and improved facilities at sanatoria, rest cure establishments and community organizations specializing in serving the elderly.

Free wellness programmes for war and labour veterans who served during the period from 1941 to 1945 will be set up this year at sanatoria and rest cure establishments of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions and other State-owned and private enterprises.

In addition, this year, the elderly will have the opportunity to attend cinemas, theatres, museums, concerts and other cultural activities free of charge. An event to honour people aged 100 or older, called Face to Face with the Century and other, similar events are being planned.

There will be improvements in work to organize daily and leisure activities for the elderly, with a particular focus on establishing activity- and interest-based groups in the communities and *makhallat*, as well as facilities for the elderly to engage in exercise and sports activities. There will be a *chaikhana*, or tearoom, in every *makhalla*, which will serve as a social centre for the elderly. People traditionally gather at the *chaikhana* to socialize, chat, share the latest news over a cup of tea, and play chess and checkers. Now they will be able to gather there to watch special television broadcasts, performances and movies, whose production this year will be increased.

Departments responsible for ongoing work with the elderly and persons with disabilities within the *makhallat* and citizens' self-government bodies will be strengthened, through coordination and oversight of government agencies and offices, with emphasis on those offices that provide for pensions and social and medical services.

Events are being planned to provide elderly people who are alone and those in need of social support with the furniture and housewares they need, as well as clothing, reading matter and tabletop and board games. This programme is called May the Elderly Give Us Their Blessing.

Under the motto "No one overlooked", tourist trips to historic sites will be organized for elderly people from all over the country and a series of displays and competitions called the Elderly are the Pillar of the Family and Best *Makhalla Guzar* (neighbourhood community centre) will be held in various locales.

The national programme of the Year of Attention and Care for the Older Generation provides for the allocation of a total of 2,246.5 billion sum and 229.6 million dollars to carry out all of this fine work.

All veterans enjoy love, attention and generosity, respect and veneration beyond measure. The Presidential Decree of 19 February 2015 on awarding jubilee medals to Uzbek war and labour veterans who served during the period 1941 to 1945 in order to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the Second World War Victory is a clear demonstration of the care and attention lavished on the older generation. The Decree was adopted to pay due tribute to war and labour veterans

who served during the period 1941 to 1945, making an invaluable contribution to the Victory over fascism.

To recall magnificent deeds and to be capable of appreciating people themselves is one of life's enduring values. After all, the power of a nation arises less from the strength of its military than from the peace and tranquillity that hold sway there, and from its citizens' cohesiveness, unity and patriotism, as manifested in the attention and care shown to the elderly. The human being and his or her rights and interests thus represent the highest value of our Homeland.

The measures taken in our country to brighten the lives of the elderly are not only a source of material support for them but of emotional and psychological support as well. The peaceful and serene lives of our citizens, their confidence in the future and their work to educate the younger generation in a spirit of fidelity to the Homeland and ideas of independence reflect their profound satisfaction and gratitude for the attention and care they receive.

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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 107
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our identical letters of 24 February 2015 (A/69/795-S/2015/137), I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

From 22 February to 22 March 2015, armed terrorist groups bombed and shelled the cities of Syria, killing 172 Syrian civilians, 28 of them children, and injuring 383 civilians, 83 of them children. Those criminal acts have now claimed a total of 17,358 Syrian civilian lives, including 1,895 children; 16,129 civilians, 2,913 of them children, have been wounded.

Those figures include all Syrian governorates except for Raqqah. They do not include those members of the Syrian Arab Army, the security forces and law enforcement forces who have died in clashes with terrorist organizations and terrorists, including the foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries brought to Syria by State sponsors of terrorism in order to wreak havoc and destruction in the country, in a flagrant standing violation of Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1989 (2011), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015). Nor do those figures reflect the civilians who have been shot, have had their throats cut or have fallen victim to any of the other barbaric criminal methods used by the terrorist organizations.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities by condemning and holding to account State sponsors of terrorism, particularly the regimes of Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and by prevailing on them to bring an end to their destructive activities, which endanger international peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 107
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following:

On the morning of Monday, 23 March 2015, armed terrorist groups committed yet another massacre in the city of Aleppo when they fired several rockets at the tranquil residential districts of Bab al-Faraj, Bustan Kulayb, Jamiliyah, Barun and Sa'dullah al-Jabiri. The attack killed 12 civilians and injured over 30 others, most of them children and women. There are body parts of unidentified victims at the site of the attack. Public and private property also sustained significant material damage.

This massacre is the continuation of a series of terrorist crimes targeting Aleppo that have been committed by terrorist groups that include groups some have deemed fit to call moderate. For more than a year and a half after the crisis began, Aleppo had stood as an impregnable rampart against extremist armed terrorist groups and had managed to maintain its stability and preserve the security and safety of its citizens, until countries that like to call themselves "friends of the Syrian people" specifically ordered the terrorist groups to target and enter the peaceful city. Those groups, composed of the nationals of 90 countries, proceeded to kill innocent civilians, starve them by cutting off access to food, water and electricity, surround them and use them as human shields. Those groups also laid waste to the city's medical, service, educational and economic infrastructure.

We cannot forget that it was those wicked terrorist groups that attacked the city's cultural and religious legacy, destroying the Umayyad Mosque and setting ablaze the city's traditional market, which had been the oldest surviving market of its kind in the world until they committed the crime of burning it. They also destroyed Aleppo's ancient districts and archaeological landmarks, which are registered as world heritage sites. Such acts can only be described as desperate attempts to snuff out the light of human culture and civilization and to spread the

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obscurantist, extremist and hateful thought of groups steeped in ignorance, extremism and hostility to humanity.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms its resolve to combat terrorism in Syria and fulfil its duty to defend and protect the Syrian people from any attacks against its security and safety. It once again calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to condemn this criminal act and take forceful measures, in coordination and cooperation with the Syrian Government, against the terrorist groups and the States that support and sponsor them, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/69/837

General Assembly

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Sixty-ninth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda items 132 and 115

Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Statute of the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/69/L.55

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Matthias **Dettling** (Switzerland)

1. At its 33rd and 34th meetings, on 24 and 27 March 2015, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/69/19) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/69/L.55. At the 33rd meeting, the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/69/826). The draft decision submitted by the Chair following informal consultations coordinated by the representative of India (A/C.5/69/L.31) was before the Committee (see para. 4).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/69/SR.33 and 34).

Decision of the Fifth Committee

3. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] decides to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/69/L.55, additional requirements amounting to $97,600 under section 28, Public information,

[1] A/C.5/69/19.
[2] A/69/826.

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would be met from within the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, to the extent possible, failing which the additional expenditures should be reported in the context of the second performance report for the biennium.